

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 19, 1978

10:00 o'clock a.m.

DONALD F. WILLE,
Vice Chairman,
Presiding.

Lake Charles, Louisiana



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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . Pursuant to notice, the regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Friday, May 19, 1978, at Lake Charles, Louisiana, Donald F. Wille, Vice Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

DONALD F. WILLE, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

J. C. GILBERT, Member

CHARLES RIGGS, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Secretary

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A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of February 28 and March 21, 1978. (3)
2. Rules for Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area campsites. (5)
3. Comment re controversy between State and private campground areas. (9)
4. Louisiana Wildlife Federation recommendation (10)



agent in Southwest Louisiana.

5. Adjournment.

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THE CHAIRMAN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to welcome you to Lake Charles to the annual Wildlife and Fisheries Commission setting of the seasons. This meeting will be done in two segments. We will have our formal meeting first and then we will have our public hearing. As soon as we finish the formal meeting I am going to set down a few ground rules for you on the public hearing.

I am Don Wille. I am Chairman of the Commission today. I am normally Vice Chairman. To my left is Mr. Marc Dupuy from Marksville and to his left is Mr. Charles Riggs from Hackberry. To my right is Mr. J. Burton Angelle, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and to his right is Mr. J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert, former Senator from Sicily Island.

We will open the meeting with Item No. 1, which is the approval of the minutes -- this is going to be a very short meeting, by the way, the formal meeting -- approval of the minutes of February 28, 1978 and March 21, 1978.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.



THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy.

MR. RIGGS: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Riggs.

All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any negative votes?

(No response)

So moved.

Mr. Angelle just called to my attention that we have three members who are not present today. Mr. Doyle Berry, the Chairman, who is in Washington on business; Mr. Jean Lapeyre from Houma, who is at Notre Dame getting his daughter graduated today; and Mr. Clay Luttrell who is in Canada, representing the Commission at the DU meeting and convention.

Under the heading of other business, the only other suggestion I have, Burt, is I would like to make sure that we put that oyster discussion on the agenda for next month, concerning the surveys.

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Will do.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there is no further



business -- do we have any?

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, I do have something in the line of other business.

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, go ahead.

MR. DUPUY: Gentlemen, we have had on the Spring Bayou Wildlife Management the completion of a campground and campsite project. The architect has approved the project, the project has been completed. It provides for 20 parking sites with water and electricity. The project is ready to be put into public use and awaits a decision of this Commission for the fixing of the campground fee for overnight parking, the establishment of policy regulations that would pertain to the overnight parking and camping.

Our biologist and management supervisor on the Management Area are ready to begin the opening of the area after we establish a policy. I would like at this time to hear some comments from Joe Herring with regard to his feelings on it before we discuss it a little bit further.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Marc.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Marc. One thing



about this camping area, it is a fairly nice area with a lot of trees in it. It is on Spring Bayou and some of the campsites are right looking over the water. I would just like to say we have some private businesses around there where people rent campsites and we certainly don't want to go into competition with these. We are working up some recommendations on it, as we have on other areas, and possibly at the next Commission meeting we will have all these. We are thinking about \$5.00 per night on it, and the same thing we have on a lot of our other areas where we do not charge, we do have a time limit. That is not more than 14 nights at the camp because in some of these free camping areas -- I don't know how this is going to be on the charging one since this is the first one we have ever gone into -- but on some of these free ones we will get homesteaders there occasionally, so we have to have some kind of rules to get them to move off.

Another thing we will have probably to recommend is some type of check-in and check-out time, since we are adding a facility here that is



going to take much maintenance since we are furnishing electricity and water there plus cleanup services and everything. We are not adding any more people over there and so we will possibly recommend that they have to come in before a certain time and check out at a certain time, rather than coming in at all times of the night there and trying to come into the camping area.

It is a very nice area there and we would invite the people who are here for this hearing, sometime when you are going through Marksville there by Spring Bayou to drop by and see it and possibly camp on the area.

This is the first one we have ever gone into like this. It is kind of a pilot study to see how camping areas like that work out. We are not in competition with the Park Service or anyone else. It is just that we had a very nice facility there to try to improve and through the legislative groups around that area and our Commission, we did get some funds to build this camping area so we are going to give it a try there, so we will have everything worked up for the next Commission



meeting, Marc.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have a recommendation, Joe, for the Commission to make a motion or anything?

MR. HERRING: Well, I think Marc just wanted us -- was that it? That would be my recommendations, what I gave right then, but I think he was wanting that to be completed next month. We can go ahead and do it now, and open it.

MR. DUPUY: I wanted to move that we establish the policy and go ahead and open as soon as we can do so, with a little public ceremony and a ribboncutting and some publicity which will be beneficial to the area and let people know that this area is available. With regard to that, I would like to suggest that Joe and Jerry Owens, the resident biologist, and Don Blackwell, the resident management supervisor, be prepared to open at the time when they feel it is ready.

MR. HERRING: O. K., those would be the recommendations. Five dollars per night, no more than 14 straight nights. They would have to move out for one week and come back in and we would



have a checkout time that would be normal working duty hours for the personnel on the Area at this time.

MR. DUPUY: I would so recommend, so move, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., do I have a second?

MR. RIGGS: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Riggs. All in favor?

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Those opposed?

(No response)

The motion carries.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. DUPUY: Thank you. I might make one further comment. I am sure most of you have seen in the newspapers recently some criticism by associations representing various campground area owners, particularly with the regard to some 27 campgrounds north of Lake Pontchartrain and somewhat of a controversy with the State Parks and Recreation Commission and/or the Tourist Commission



with regard to the State parks not charging and being competitive with private parks and being somewhat detrimental to private industry and private enterprise.

My recollection of the articles in the paper recently, within the last three or four days, was that the State Parks and Recreation Commission would consider charging commensurate fees so as to not be damaging to private industry. I think this is part of the overall feeling that is going on throughout the State. That is one of the reasons I wanted to bring it up today.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. Do we have any further comments from the audience? Jack, come on up, state your full name. Jack, this doesn't pertain to the hearing, right?

MR. JACK SEARLES: Thank you very much, Mr. Wille. I am Jack Searles, Vice President of the Seventh District of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation.

The various sporting clubs of Southwest Louisiana have met, the affiliates of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and instructed me to come up



here and request that when Mr. Ben Jardell retires that Lieutenant Charles Savage be elevated to Agent III and be placed in Ben Jardell's job. We feel it would be to the benefit of the sportsmen of Southwest Louisiana and all concerned.

We would like to thank Ben for the many years of good service that he has given us. He has done a good job and we are going to miss him.

(Applause)

THE CHAIRMAN: Jack, we certainly appreciate the remarks you said about Captain Jardell. I personally know him myself and I know that he has been a very, very good agent.

This Commission is a policymaking body and the only thing we can do is recommend to Mr. Angelle and whoever the other deciding forces may be, and sometimes it is not Mr. Angelle who decides -- I might tell you that -- but we can make our recommendations but we are a governing body which sets policy for the Commission. I just want you to know that, and we try to keep out of personnel-type situations.

We certainly thank you for your input,



though, and we appreciate the recommendation and I am sure that Mr. Angelle will take this under consideration.

Do you have anything to say, Burt?

SECRETARY ANGELLE: Well, the responsibility is mine and I accept that responsibility and not anyone else.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K. If there is no further business before the Commission, what we are going to do is stand adjourned. It will take Bob Smothers about two minutes to change the tapes because we have to go into another tape situation on the hearing. So, if there is no further business before the Commission, we will adjourn at this time.

Thank you.


(Whereupon, the regular monthly meeting of the Commission was adjourned.)



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing (12 pages of typewritten matter) is a true and correct transcription of the tape recording of the proceedings herein, transcribed by me, at the time and place hereinbefore noted.

New Orleans, Louisians, this 19th day of June, 1978.


Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

